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FORESTRY NEWS

October 8, 2015

We were pleased with the overwhelming response to our employee Elk Tag Raffle. As you may be aware, Todd Treadwell, our Road Crew Supervisor in Scotia was our lucky winner. We received a very nice Thank You letter from Todd and he provided a narrative of his experiences on his hunt. With his permission, we are passing it along for those of you who showed an interest.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to share my appreciation to all of those who were concerned and involved with the HRC elk tag raffle and hunt. A special thanks to Aaron Griffith for his time, effort and knowledge of Elk Hunting. Without his knowledge and encouragement along with the encouragement of all of my co-workers and friends; the hunt may have been a disappointing experience.

I knew when I was putting in for the raffle that this hunt could be extremely challenging and difficult. I also knew that most likely this would be a once in a lifetime experience and something I would regret not putting in for. Thanks to my wife Cindy, for understanding how important this hunt was to me and allowing me to hunt the three weekends and the three days I took off so that I could hunt from daylight until dark. Not to mention, in addition to that, every night after work until dark, hunting 20 days out of the 21 day season. Twice, Aaron Griffith was able to call Bull Elk within 100 feet of our position. Amazingly you could just barely hear this large animal moving to the brush, but you could hear them breathing. Then, they would bugle and start rattling their horns against the brush removing all doubt as to whether it was an elk or not.

During these hunts while bugling, cow calling, sitting or just walking quietly, approximately 5 times elk came to within several hundred feet, although unfortunately, would not come out of the brush while it was light enough to shoot. During the time I spent elk hunting I was fortunate to have close encounters with a mountain lion that would walk by within a hundred feet of me. I also came across several bear, coyotes, bobcats, 7 bucks, and a lot of deer. Almost all of these animals seemed to be unaware that I was even there. I'm assuming this is due to the extra measures I took to cover up my own scent. Or possibly the cow calling gave them a sense of security?

While it was disappointing not to fill the tag; it was definitely a once in a lifetime experience and the opportunity was there. Hindsight is 20/20 as there were things I wish I could do over again that would have improved my chances. But in the end, I am very thankful for being fortunate enough to have the experience at all.

Thanks again to those who put this hunt together for an employee raffle. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Todd Treadwell

We were very happy to be able to provide this opportunity to all of you, and though we are not guaranteed an elk tag every year, we look forward to providing this opportunity again in the future.

Dennis Thibeault
Vice President, Forestry
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